North Dakota Chess Association

Dedicated to Chess and Education

AUGUST' 1995 NDCA NEWSLETTER

NORTH DAKOTA CHESS ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

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NDCA dues are required of all chess players residing in ND that play in ND tournaments(not mandatory for ND Scholastic) $7 per year, $5 if under age 18. Dues and material for the October, 1995 Newsletter should be sent to Dale Sailer, 3207 E. Elmwood Dr., Grand Forks, ND 58201. Please remit by September 20th, 1995 to allow time for processing.

FARGO AREA CHESS CLUB-The **STARRY KNIGHTS CLUB** meets Thursday nights at 7:00 PM . There are no fees or dues of any kind. Contact: **ART BAYLEY** 239-4985

UND CHESS CLUB-meets Wednesday nights at 7:00 PM at the UND Memorial(starting 9/13/95). For info call Dale Sailer at 775-6692.

CHESS TOURNAMENTS

September 23,1995-Booking It Open-UND Memorial Union
October 7,1995-Star Wars Open-Grafton, ND
November 4-5, 1995-Capa Caper Open-Crookston, MN
April 1996- North Dakota Scholastic (details in future newsletter)
May 1996- North Dakota Closed Championship (details in future newsletter)

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BOOKING IT OPEN

September 23, 1995 at UND Memorial Union, Grand Forks, ND.

3 round Swiss System. Entry Fee- $10.00. USCF Rated. Registration at 9:30 AM
Rounds at 10 AM-2 PM-6 PM. Time controls ar 40/90 & 15/30 each round . Bring clocks and correct change. Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd and Best Under 1500. Provisionally rated is not considered unrated. For more information contact John Allensworth, 1438 Fernwood Drive, Grafton, ND 58237. Phone (701)352-0352.

STAR WARS OPEN

October 7, 1995 at Zion English Lutheran Church, 1100 Hill Avenue, Grafton, ND.

The Church is a block north of Jet Oil Amoco Station at the corner of Hill and Highway 17 in Grafton. 3 round Swiss System. Entry Fee- $12.00. All other information the same as Booking it Open above

CAPA CAPER OPEN

November 4-5, 1995. Grand Prix Enhanced 10 points.

5 rounds, SS, Guaranteed Prize Fund $600. Projected Prize Fund of $750. Time controls G1=90, G2-5=120 minutes/player. USCF Sudden Death rules will apply.
Site: Northland Inn, Highway 75 North (behind Pizza Hut which is at 2315 N. Acres Drive) Crookston, MN (218)281-5210. Rooms available at reasonable rates.

Registration 9:15-9:30 am November 4th
Rounds= 9:45 am 1 pm, 6 pm November 4th and 10 am, 2:30 pm November 5th

Prizes- Ist= $175, 2nd= $105, 3rd= $70. $50 to winner of each section--Expert/A, B, C, D, E & Unrated.

EF=$20 Advance entries are $15. Send advance entries to Mr. John Winters, Elm Street Inn, 422 Elm Street, Crookston, MN 56716 Phone 1-800-279-4214. Bed and breakfast acccomodations are available at the Elm Street Inn on a limited basis. Call early for reservations

NAMES FROM THE PAST

North Dakota Chess History, by John H. Leitel

I haven't played in the North Dakota Closed since 1990. I have played in nine of them in the past, however, but don't recall any which got as much publicity in the Bismarck Tribune as the 1956 North Dakota Championship. Would you believe a list of the names and home towns of every participant? It must have been a slow day for news!

The tournament attracted twenty players to the World War Memorial Building in downtown Bismarck over the weekend of June 2 & 3, 1956. Apparently it was conducted as a six-round Swiss.

Gordon Anderson, Northwood, was the winner at 5 1/2- 1/2. Tied for second at 5-1 were R.J. McKee, Tappen; Louis Waag, Petersburg; and Donald S. Johnson, New Salem. Max Bluecher of Bismarck secured the fifth prize with 4 1/2- 1 1/2. It's interesting to note that all of the top four finishers came from towns which no longer figure very largely in North Dakota chess. I lived just a hop, skip, and a jump from New Salem for fifteen years and never heard of a chessplayer there--certainly none who could have finished near the top of a state tournament!

Also-rans in the 1956 tourney were the following:

Gerald Jones (Mandan)
Robert Boettcher (Bismarck)
Charles A. Lingk (Bismarck)
Gerald Fiechtner (Fargo)
Jacob Springer (Bismarck)
Leonard Graetz (Fargo)
Herbert Killsgaard (Bismarck)
Donald Olson (Fargo)
Mrs.. Ralph Anderson (Bismarck)
Dr. Robert Albright (Fargo)
Mrs. Robert Albright (Fargo)
John Thysell (Bismarck)
Rudy Scheler (Bismarck)
Herbert Roberts (Bismarck)
Johannes Folstad (Bismarck)

This may have been the approximate order of finish, but I don't really know. Do any of these names ring a bell with anyone? I once tried to locate some of the players or their descendants but had little luck. The trail had gotten pretty cold after about 25 years! I do know that Graetz and Thysell were active postal players at one time, but otherwise most of them probably played chess just a short time and then dropped out. If nothing else, the list of names says something about the ethnic makeup of North Dakota at that time. Nearly every name is German or Scandinavian!

I've never been able to find any games from the tourney, so we'll have to dispense with that feature this time around. I suppose I could show you my flashy draw with LaMoyne Splichal to make up for it...

The Pugnacious Pirc
by Brent A. Askvig

All too frequently the Pirc Defense has been given the reputation as a slow, slovenly, boring chess opening. That is not necessarily so. This article is an attempt to simply illustrate the main ideas behind the Pirc in an effort to revive its play.

History

Although the exact origins of the Pirc Defense are not clear, Louis Paulsen was know to have played it in the Numburg tournament of 1883. In 1896, Charousek tried the Pirc against Tarrasch, but lost in 17 moves. When he asked where he had gone wrong in the game, the World Champion Steinitz, who had overheard the conversation, said Charousek's main problem was that he had played such a "weird" opening. The Pirc then fell out of favor in most major tournaments.

The Pirc (also known as the Yugoslav, the Ufimtsev, the Robatsch or even the Modern Defense) experienced a revival in the 30's and 40's when the Yugoslavian Grandmaster Vasja Pirc and the Russian analyst Ufimtsev explored its intricacies. They along with several others developed the main lines and pushed it back into prominence. In the 1960's and 70's several top grandmasters used the Pirc successfully. This group included Pal Benko, Duncan Suttles, and Peter Biyiasas. Even Robert J. Fisher used the Pirc, most famously against Boris Spasky in the 1972 World Championship match. Current Pirc aficionados include 1989 U.S. Co-champions Yasser Seirawan and Roman Dzindzichashvili.

Basic Theme

The main idea behind the Pirc is for Black to allow White to build up a center and over-extend himself. Black quietly develops and solidifies his position and, at an appropriate time, counter-attacks with e5 or c5. Although it seems that the Pirc is a rather passive defense (especially when compared to the Najdorf Sicilian), Black must be careful to play too closely to the vest. If he allows White too much play, he will never have enough time to defend against a center push and Kingside attack.

Basic Lines

There are two main lines and several sub-themes in the Pirc. The main lines are the Austrian Attack (also known as the 3 pawns variation) and the Classical System. The initial moves and themes of each are described below.

Austrian attack. Perhaps the best known and most played line of the Pirc is the Austrian. It is characterized by the advance 4. f4, with a later attempt at e5. Since the Austrian is a very tactical line (Yes, I said tactical), Black must prevent a center advance by White, especially if he does not castle early. Either c5 or e5 helps Black accomplish this task. The initial moves of the Austrian are: 1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.f4 Bg7 5.Nf3 O-O 6.Bd3 Nc6. The two most important tactical continuations are: (A) 7. e5 de5 8.fe5 Nh5 9.Be3 Bg4 10.Be2 f6 11.ef6 ef6 12.O-O f5 13.h3 Bf3 14.Bf3 with equal chances, (B) 7.O-O e5 8.fe5 de5 9.d5 Ne7 10.Ne5 c6 11.Bg5 cd5 12.Bf6 Qb6+ and White has a slight advantage.

Classical system. This system has a different philosophical approach for White. Instead of building up a large pawn center as with the Austrian, White attempts to quickly develop his pieces and remain more flexible. Although this allows Black to develop comfortably, there are many more chances for exciting play.

The main variation of the Classical system is: 1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Be2 O-O 6.O-O Bg4 7.Be3 Nc6 8.Qd2 e5.

Here White has two choices; he can play (A) 9.de5 with chances to preserve a minute endgame advantage or he can venture into more complex positions with (B) 9.d5. For example, (A) 9...de5 10.Rad1 Qc8 11.Qc1 Rd8 12.Rd8+ Qd8 13.Rd1 Qf8 14.h3 Bf3 15.Bf3 Rd8. and (B) 9...Ne7 10.Rad1 Bd7 11.Ne1 Ng4 12.Bg4 Bg4 13.f3 Bd7 14.f4 Bg4 15.Rb1 c6 16.fe5 de5 17.Bc5 and White has a small plus.

Illustrative Game

Just so that you don't think I'm pulling your leg, the following game is one example of how wild and exciting the Pirc can be. Although this may not be a gem of a game and mistakes were made, it shows how both White and Black can have attacking chances.

Dennis - Askvig, 1988 Mingles 30/30 Tournament, Moscow, ID
1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.f4 Bg7 5.Be2 O-O 6.Be3 c6 7.h3 Qc7 8.Qd2 Nbd7 9.O-O-O b5 10.Bf3 e5 11.f5 b4 12.Nce2 a5 13.Bh6 Nb6 14.Bg7 Kg7 15.b3 a4 16.h4 ab3 17.cb3 c5 18.de5 de5 19.h5 Rh8 20.hg6 hg6 21.Rh8 Kh8 22.Qh6+ Kg8 23.fg6 Be6 24.g7 Nh7 25.Bh5 c4 26.Kb1 Qa7 27.Nc1 cb3 28.Qd2 ba2+ 29.Ka1 Nc4 30.Qb4 Rb8 31.Rd8+ Rd8 32.Nb3 Qg1+ 33.Ka2 Qf2+ 34.Kb1 Qb2 mate.

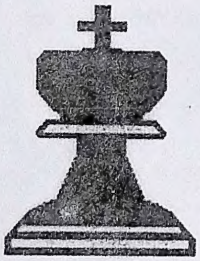
Resources

The following will provide more information on the Pirc:

Pirc Defense by G. Friedstein. Translated by Colleen Sen. Chicago Chess Books, 1970.

The Complete Pirc by John Nunn. Collier Books, 1989.

Developments in the Pirc and Modern Systems by Davies and Hosking. 1988.



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pcBASE REVIEW

by John Allensworth

Paul Meiners, who created pcBase for chess enthusiasts had a definite type of chess player in mind when he designed the program. This is a positional database with special features for the correspondence chess player such as the ability to input up to 32k of game information for each featured game. There is the ability to annotate individual positions as well as individual games at any point. Opening codes such as ECO codes can be selected as well. Thus, the correspondence player can use the 240,000+ positions that come with the program as resource material for helping select a good move(s) as well as inputting individual games as they proceed.

pcBase can import and export game files in the popular PGN format as well as the increasingly common EPD (extended position description). I imported about 4000 games into pcBase in the PGN format and except for one corrupted file all the games were successfully imported and the program arranged the games into the positional database collection.

It is lots of fun to play out offbeat openings such as 1.b3 as GM Bent Larsen did against Spassky 25 years ago. Incidentally, Larsen was crushed in 17 moves by the redoubtable Spassky.

Compared with Bookup, another positional database, pcBase offers the additional features for the correspondence player I've already mentioned as well as the ability to handle a huge number of positions in its one database. I have to give the nod to Bookup as a supplier of annotated database books on specific openings and opening systems, written by Masters up to including GMs. I also relish the training of the correct moves. For those who may not be familiar with a positional database, it records its collection of games as a collection of positions rather than individual moves. Thus 100 games may share the same position, arrived at through a variety of move orders. This differs from ChessBase which records the moves of any number of individual games and manipulates games rather than positions shared by games per se.

I mentioned to Mr. Meiners that I thought that the addition of a training function in pcBase would greatly widen its appeal to chess players but he replied that the program was designed more for the correspondence chess players amongst us.

pcBase is a program with definite plusses that is fairly priced for its intended users. At about $90, it is considerably less expensive than the $150 price for Bookup. for the correspondence chess player who would use the features it offers, pcBase is recommended.

On the minus side, I have a Hewlett Packard Deskjet 540 printer and I was unable to get the diagram printing function to work at all. However, game notation and game scores printed very well. I would suggest to Mr. Meiners that he continue to refine and add features to his already solid program. I think its lower price could corner a larger bit of the positional database market if enhancements to pcBase were made

John Allensworth
August 15, 1995

		SCHOOLS OUT SWISS						
		JUNE 10, 1995						
PLR	NAME	PRE-RATE	PST-RATE	RD #1	RD#2	RD#3	RD#4	TOTAL
1	SPIESS, ROBERT JA	1813	1851	W6	W3	W2	W5	4.0
2	THOMPSON, BRIAN E	1767	1778	W7	W4	L1	W3	3.0
3	PROECHEL, GLEN F.	1905	1900	W5	L1	W4	L2	2.0
4	WINTERS, JOHN A.	1294	1321	W5	L2	L3	W7	2.0
5	ALLENSWORTH, JOHN	1343	1336	L3	L4	W6	L1	1.0
6	HJELSETH, MICHAEL	1300	1281	L1	D7	L5	H	1.0
7	MINDEMAN, RONN D.	1239	1228	L2	D6	L4	H	1.0

H= 1/2 POINT BYE

		MIDSUMMER OPEN						
		JULY 15, 1995						
PLR	NAME	PRE-RATE	PST-RATE	RD #1	RD#2	RD#3	RD#4	TOTAL
1	SPIESS, ROBERT JA	1851	1851	W5	D2	W3	U	2.5
2	JORGENSEN, JON	1736	1750	W4	D1	W5	U	2.5
3	HJELSETH, MICHAEL	1281	1322	W4	W5	L1	U	2.0
4	ALLENSWORTH, JOHN	1336	1338	L2	L3	W5	U	1.0
5	PEPLINSKI, DAN	1506	1447	L1	L3	L2	L4	0.0

U=UNPLAYED

CHESS TRIVIA!

Probably the strongest chess player of the old time movie stars was Humphrey Bogart. As you may recall he is even shown playing solitaire chess in his first scene as Rick in *Casablanca*. As a young actor during the depression years in New York, Bogart often supplemented his meager income by hustling chess games and winning often. He was even offered the job of the resident expert at a New York Cafe after he beat the then resident expert so often - Bogie declined the offer. In his heyday in Hollywood, Bogart continued to hustle chess games and for quite large sums of money!

Bobby Fischer has played thousands of chess games in his illustrious career. One of his shortest was against Grandmaster Panno. Bobby opened with 1. c4. GM Panno responded with 1.... Resigns. Humorously, John Watson offered an analysis of Panno's move in his *English: Franco, Slav and Flank Defences* book: "...fails to further black's development, but does have a certain surprise value; and one may argue further that you can save a lot of energy by employing the demure approach... Those disinclined to the rigors of tournament play may find much of interest here".

The 64 Square Question

What is "Jugar del peon del rea a IIII casas, que se entiende contando de done esta' el rey". It is from a fifteenth-century chess book by Lucena. Nowadays we simply write e4.

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